Caribbean Public Health Agency

CARPHA

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health
COVID-19: Systemic Risk and Education Sector Resilience in the Caribbean Region

COVID-19 Public Health Protocols for the Education Sector: Perspectives on Multi-Sectoral and Regional Collaboration

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Presented by:
Dr. Joy St. John
Executive Director
CARPHA
Outline

- Know the environment
- Achieving health and safety
- Ensuring continuity of education
- Building resilience through education
- Safeguarding investments in education
Considerations for School-Related Public Health Measures in the context of Covid-19

01 What is the trend in COVID-19 cases in the area?

02 Is local information on disease trends accessible and reliable?

03 Are public health officials in the community able to quickly detect and respond to new cases, to avert new outbreaks?

04 Is the school able to maintain appropriate collaboration and coordination with local public health authorities?

05 What is the number of staff at risk for severe disease (age-groups and underlying conditions)?

06 What is the number of children with underlying conditions or special needs.

04 (e.g. provide public health officers with information needed to trace contacts if a case or outbreak occurs in the school), ?
Teaching toddlers to social distance won't work

First day back....

SCHOOL

Miss Jones: "We've missed you."
Students and educators are safe from death, injury and harm in schools

- Ensure that deep cleaning and sanitization is done prior to reopening
- Try to have special transportation arrangements to reduce exposure
- Have daily mechanisms in place for monitoring staff and children who may become ill (Temperature screening)
- Install additional stations of running water for regular hand washing
- Ensure that staff and children are equipped with hand sanitisers and masks
- Be prepared to adjust school schedule to accommodate new mitigating measures
- Review online teaching and exam options
- Explore formalised after school programs with trusted providers

Social Distancing Measures

- Arrange desks at least 6 feet apart
- Avoid any non-essential assemblies

During lunch
- Eat lunch in the classroom instead of the cafeteria

Double or triple these measures for special education situations
Continuity of education through all expected hazards and threats

Virtual platforms for learning
- Resources available to staff and students
- Access to education by all students
- Continue blended learning

New approaches to teaching (creativity)

Managing school-based and national assessments

Adaptation/revamping of current curriculum
Risk reduction and resilience is being strengthened through education

Access for all Virtual platforms

Screen students to manage learning gaps

Assuming teacher orientation and professional development support

Managing logistics around social distancing, even with need for social interaction (play and sports)

Addressing psycho-social challenges for students and teachers (Impact on children)

Financial and dietary support to marginalized students

For institutions with residential facilities/health stations, ensure there are guidelines for managing illness, quarantine, reporting illness to Ministry of Health for staff and students

Coordinate with Caribbean Teachers Unions re measures in place in other countries and development of Regional Protocols
Education sector investments are safeguarded

Establish the achievements which must be maintained with stakeholders-Multi-stakeholder Communication and collaboration with relevant stakeholders – parents' orientation/ workshop, communities, health officials

- Ensure that all measures are communicated clearly to parents/guardians
- Expectations of parents and students
- Expectations of the school
- Hand washing stations
- Proper signage at the institution
- Updating with new information

Develop a decision model for reclosing and reopening schools as needed due to resurgence of community transmission

Determine critical levels of staff required to keep school open

Ensure parents receive instructions re reporting illness and travel history to school

Coordinate with National Teachers Unions and PTAs re contingency measures for outbreaks of illness in staff or students
How to reopen Considerations…

wellbeing/protection

policy

financing

learning

safe operations

reaching the most marginalized